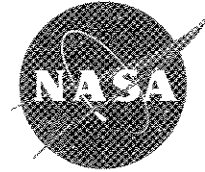


National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
George C. Marshall Space Flight Center  
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



November 18, 2010

Reply to Attn of:

LS01(AMM)

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

FROM: LS01/William J. Bierbower

SUBJECT: Blanket Approval for NASA Employees to Attend a Reception Dinner Sponsored by the North Alabama Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

Each year the North Alabama Chapter (NAC) of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) sponsors a symposium on new developments in federal acquisition law. The symposium capitalizes on the expertise from renowned private and federal sector attorneys and permits local private and federal sector attorneys and other members of the acquisition community to further develop their technical skills while earning continuing legal and acquisition education credits. This year the event is scheduled for December 1-2, 2010, at the Huntsville Marriott, Huntsville, AL.

On November 30, 2010, the NAC FBA is hosting a symposium reception dinner at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens, Huntsville, AL. The reception dinner is open to FBA members, symposium speakers, private sector attorneys who are admitted to practice law before a federal court, and attorneys employed by local federal government agencies, to include the U. S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missile Defense Agency, and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. It is anticipated that over 50 private and federal sector attorneys will attend the event, which will cost about \$30.00 per person. The NCA FBA has offered attorneys from NASA and MSFC's Office of Chief Counsel an unsolicited gift offer of free attendance to the reception dinner.

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(2) and (3), 14 CFR 1207.103 (c)(4), I have determined that this event will be a widely attended gathering of federal and private sector attorneys, and it is in the best interest of NASA to permit employees who receive invitations to attend the reception and dinner. The event will provide NASA attorneys an opportunity to network with other federal sector attorneys, as well as private sector attorneys, and to discuss current legal issues pertaining to federal procurement.

Given the purpose of the event, the broad attendance anticipated, and the reasonable market value of this event, I have determined that the value to the agency in having employees attend this event outweighs any concern that free attendance may or may appear to improperly influence them in the performance of their duties.

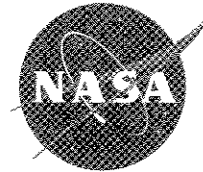
Accordingly, NASA invitees, accompanied by a spouse or other guest, may attend this event.

FBA is not a lobbying organization and is not registered as such under the Lobbying Disclosure Act. Therefore, this opinion is applicable to any "Schedule C", non-career appointees who may be invited to the event.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Bierbower". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "W" and a stylized "B".

William J. Bierbower  
Chief Counsel

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
**George C. Marshall Space Flight Center**  
Marshall Space Flight Center, AL 35812



November 18, 2010

Reply to Attn of:

LS01 (AMM)

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD**

**FROM:** LS01/William J. Bierbower

**SUBJECT:** Approval for NASA Attorneys to Attend Speaker's Dinner Sponsored  
by the North Alabama Chapter of the Federal Bar Association

Each year the North Alabama Chapter (NAC) of the Federal Bar Association (FBA) sponsors a symposium on new developments in federal acquisition law. The symposium capitalizes on the expertise from renowned private and federal sector attorneys and permits local private and federal sector attorneys and other members of the acquisition community to further develop their technical skills while earning continuing legal and acquisition education credits. This year the event is scheduled for December 1-2, 2010, at the Huntsville Marriott, Huntsville, AL.

On December 1, 2010, the NAC FBA is hosting a Speaker's Dinner at the Smokehouse Restaurant in the Bridge Street complex in Huntsville. Invitees include NAC FBA officers, fifteen symposium speakers (nine of whom are from federal agencies and six from the private sector), and Chief Counsels from the U. S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Missile Defense Agency, and NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC). The NAC FBA has extended an invitation to the dinner to William Bierbower, Chief Counsel, MSFC; Sumara Thompson-King, Associate General Counsel for Contracts, NASA Headquarters, who is a speaker at the Symposium; and Patricia Watson, Attorney Advisor, MSFC. The estimated cost is approximately \$23 per person.

In accordance with 5 C.F.R. 2635.204(g)(3), 14 CFR 1207.103 (c)(4), I have determined that this event will be a widely attended gathering of federal and private sector attorneys, and that it is in the best interest of NASA to permit these NASA attorneys to attend the dinner. The event will provide NASA attorneys an opportunity to network with other federal sector attorneys, as well as private sector attorneys, and to discuss current legal issues pertaining to federal procurement.

Each year, the NAC FBA sponsors the Federal Acquisition Symposium and the Federal Labor Law Symposium. Attorneys from the MSFC's Office of Chief Counsel (OCC) typically attend one or both symposia. Funds for such attendance are approved by the Chief Counsel. The total cost to send attorneys to the symposia is only a small part of OCC's annual training budget. Likewise, while the NAC FBA relies on attendance fees to sponsor the symposia, it receives

other sources of funding and would continue to exist as a professional organization without the attendance of MSFC attorneys at the two symposia.

Because the dinner will be attended by Chief Counsels from other federal agencies and legal experts in the federal procurement profession, I have determined that NASA's interest in these three attorneys participation in the Speakers Dinner outweighs the concern that acceptance of the dinner may improperly influence them in the performance of their official duties. Therefore, these attorneys may attend the dinner.

FBA is not a lobbying organization and is not registered as such under the Lobbying Disclosure Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Bierbower". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Bierbower" clearly distinguishable.

William J. Bierbower  
Chief Counsel